

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 OMB-01 DRC-01 /102 W
----- 021263

R 051545Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4059
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, TU, GR

SUBJECT: GREEK FOREIGN MINISTER PROTESTS TURKISH EMBASSY'S
PRESS BULLETIN DATED JUNE 29

REF: ATHENS 4216

1. SUMMARY. FM TETENES TOLD PRESS CORPS HE PROTESTED JULY 4
TURKISH EMBASSY'S PRESS RELEASE (ATHENS 4216) AND REQUESTED
EMBASSY TO TAKE CORRECTIVE ACTION AND TO ARRANGE DEPARTURE OF
RESPONSIBLE TURKISH PRESS OFFICER. ATHENS PRESS REPORTED
TURKISH REACTION IGNORED FACT THAT OFFENSIVE RELEASE WAS
DIRECTED AGAINST GREEK GOVERNMENT. ELEFTHEROS COSMOS IN EDITORIAL
WROTE THAT TURKISH PRESS ATTACHE WAS SCAPEGOAT SINCE SUCH TEXTS
ARE NEVER RELEASED WITHOUT AMBASSADOR'S KNOWLEDGE. END SUMMARY.

2. ATHENS NEWSPAPERS GAVE FRONTPAGE COVERAGE JULY 4 TO FM
TETENES PRESS CONFERENCE PROTESTING TURKISH EMBASSY PRESS
BULLETIN DATED JUNE 29. ANNOUNCEMENT STATED "FM TETENES TODAY
CONVENED (SIC) TURKISH AMBASSADOR, MR. GURUN, AND STRONGLY
PROTESTED UNACCEPTABLE CONTENTS OF TURKISH EMBASSY'S PRESS
RELEASE OF JUNE 29 WHICH IS UNPRECEDENTED IN DIPLOMATIC HISTORY.

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MR. GURUN EXPRESSED DEEPEST REGRETS ON BEHALF OF HIS GOVERNMENT

AND HIMSELF FOR WHAT HE DESCRIBED AS AN UNFORTUNATE INCIDENT DUE TO INITIATIVE OF PRESS OFFICE, WHICH WAS UNKNOWN BOTH TO AMBASSADOR AND HIS GOVERNMENT. ON OTHER HAND, THE FOREIGN MINISTER BY MEANS OF A NOTE ASKED TURKISH EMBASSY TO PROCEED TO A RECTIFICATION AND INSISTED THAT THE PERSON RESPONSIBLE FOR PRESS OFFICE SHOULD DEPART GREECE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE." NEWSPAPERS REPORTED THAT RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL IS PRESS ATTACHE DUNDAR ARCAYUREK.

3. CITING "AUTHORITATIVE SOURCES" ATHENS PRESS REPORTED JULY 5 THAT TURKISH REACTION WHICH DESCRIBED MATTER AS AN INTERNAL TURKISH ADMINISTRATIVE OFFENSE IGNORED FACTS THAT RELEASE WAS DIRECTED AGAINST GOG AND THAT GREEK GOVERNMENT'S REQUEST FOR TURKISH PRESS ATTACHE TO LEAVE GREECE WAS WITHIN LIMITS OF DIPLOMATIC PRACTICE. NEWSPAPERS ALSO REPORTED THAT TURKISH SPOKESMAN REMARKED THAT SITUATION COMPELS TURKEY TO TAKE CERTAIN COUNTER MEASURES WHICH HAVE NOT YET BEEN DESCRIBED. SPOKESMAN IS QUOTED AS SAYING ALSO THAT NUMBER OF TRANSLATION ERRORS HAD CREPT INTO TEXT OF RELEASE OF ECEVIT'S SPEECH. ATHENS NEWSPAPERS ADDED TO COVERAGE REMARKS OF PM ECEVIT TO PARLIAMENT THAT IT WAS CONTRADICTION THAT "WHILE WE HAVE NO PROBLEMS WITH OUR NON-ALLIED NEIGHBORS WE ARE IN DISAGREEMENT WITH OUR OWN ONLY ALLIED NEIGHBOR GREECE. IN THIS CONTEXT PRESS ALSO REPORTED SYG LUNS COMMENT TO PRESS EARLIER IN WEEK THAT HE WAS WORRIED OVER AEGEAN DISPUTE BETWEEN GREECE AND TURKEY BUT WAS HOPEFUL WAY WOULD BE FOUND TO RECONCILE DIFFERENCES.

4. ELEFTHEROS COSMOS (PRO-REGIME) WHICH FIRST REPORTED TURKISH EMBASSY'S PRESS BULLETIN OF JUNE 29 COMMENTED IN EDITORIAL JULY 5 THAT "WE ARE NOT CONVINCED OF TURKISH AMBASSADOR'S CLAIM THAT EMBASSY'S PRESS OFFICER ACTED WITHOUT AMBASSADOR'S AND ANKARA'S KNOWLEDGE. PRESS ATTACHE WAS RATHER CALLED UPON TO PLAY ROLE OF OF SCAPEGOAT." EDITORIALIST SAVVAS CONSTANTOPOULOS ADDED THAT RECENT BRUSSELS MEETING BETWEEN GREEK AND TURKISH PRIME MINISTERS REVEALS TURKISH GOVERNMENT'S REPEATED FAILURES RE AEGEAN AFFAIR. CONSTANTOPOULOS APPEALED TO TURKEY TO RECONSIDER ITS ATTITUDE AND TO CEASE ADDING ERRORS TO THOSE ALREADY COMMITTED.

5. MFA DIRECTOR GENERAL TSOUNIS TOLD CHARGE THAT GOG FOUND ANKARA ANNOUNCEMENT CONCERNING PROSPECTIVE COUNTER-MEASURES LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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INEXPLICABLE IN LIGHT OF EXPLANATION TURKISH AMBASSADOR MADE TO GREEK MFA. TSOUNIS SAID THAT TURKISH AMBASSADOR HAD ADMITTED THAT EMBASSY BULLETIN HAD OVERSTEPPED BOUNDS IN ITEMS ON PRESIDENT GHIZIKIS AND "MARIONETTE" CHARACTER OF PRESENT GO. HE ADDED THAT IF LOCAL TURKISH PRESS ATTACHE EXCLUSIVELY TO BLAME AND GOT AND TURKISH AMBASSADOR HERE UNAWARE OF CONTENTS OF NEWS BULLETIN THERE COULD BE NO BASIS FOR RECIPROCAL ACTION BY GOT AGAINST ANY OFFICER OF GREEK EMBASSY IN ANKARA.

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